



Opioids

Preventing opioid abuse



We're working hard to help make sure that prescribed opioids are used safely.

There's lots of worry about growing abuse of opioids^{1,2}. These medications can provide relief when used as directed. But they can be harmful if misused. Here's what we're doing to help prevent abuse.

We monitor every opioid Rx

Your health and safety are important to us. That's why we follow guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Here's what we do to help protect you.

- Restrict your first Rx to a 7-day supply^{3,4}
- Limit refill amounts⁴
- Help ensure use of short-acting opioids first⁴
- Offer counseling with CVS Pharmacy[®] pharmacists

We help you understand safe use^{1,2}

We help make sure you know how to take opioids correctly. Follow these tips to stay as safe as possible.

- Take medication exactly as instructed by your doctor
- Never share your opioids with others
- Avoid alcohol and certain medications that are unsafe with opioids
- Review your medications with your doctor or pharmacist regularly
- Keep opioids in a secure place. Lock it up, if possible

Have unused opioids? Find a safe disposal location at
[CVS.com/content/safer-communities-locate](https://www.cvs.com/content/safer-communities-locate)

¹Promoting safer and more effective pain management. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/Guidelines_Factsheet-Patients-a.pdf. Accessed January 10, 2018.

²Prescription opioids: What you need to know. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published May 9, 2016. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/aha-patient-opioid-factsheet-a.pdf>. Accessed January 10, 2018.

³Based on history of an opioid prescription.

⁴Prior authorization may be requested for certain medications to extend limits on quantity or days supplied or if claims history does not meet current program requirements; duration limit does not apply to patients in active cancer treatment, palliative care or end-of-life care.